Fraud in installing Junction Box in Karjat

5429. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Telecommunication employees were arrested in Karjat in Maharashtra for fraudulent action in installing powerful junction box;

(b) whether any investigations has been conducted to arrive at the factual position of this case and if so, the outcome thereof. and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Complaints making System for Faulty Telephones in Rural Areas

5430. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present system available for rural telephone users to make complaints about faulty phones and STD lines;

(b) whether it is a fact that immediate attention is not paid to such complaints;

(c) whether there is any system by which the local SDO and TDM are in daily touch with all the exchanges to get regular reports;

(d) if so, the details of the system of regular link between rural exchanges and the district level Telecom Officers; and

(e) whether a system would be evolved to ensure that all the rural exchanges make daily information reports to the SDO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Rural telephone subscribers can get their complaints registered with the complaints position in the telephone exchange by dialling a telephone number.

(b) No Sir, immediate attention is paid to such complaints.

(c) to (e) A system exists to ensure that concerned supervisory officer of the exchange monitor the clearance of complaints regularly. The concerned SDO and TDM also monitor the clearance of long duration faults.

Fraudulent Overseas Calls in Jalana

5431. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minster of COMMUNICATIONS be pleosed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of fradulent overseas calls in connivance with the officials of the Telephone department in Jalana (Mahrashtra), resulting in huge loss to the Exchequer due to non placement of the party making overseas calls, has recently come to light;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the estimated amount involved;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government in the matter; and

(d) what action is contemplated by Government against those found involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Mobile Bill Collection Units of MTNL

5432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL, New Delhi has recenly introduced mobile billing collection units in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of the places in Delhi where telephone subscribers can deposit their telephone bills.

(c) whether Government propose to expand the services covering all the important and busy localities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from 12-1-95 two mobile vans for collection of payment of telephone bills by cheques only has been introduced in MTNL, New Delhi on experimental basis.

(b) Details are shown in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 119).

(c) and (d) Mobile van collection centres have been introduced for the benefit of customers not conveniently served by the existing collection centres. These Mobile van collection centres have been introduced on experimental basis very recently and their operation is being monitored closely, as the provision of more mobile collection centres will depend on the popularity of the scheme and other related factors.

Lifting the Ban on industries in Dabanu Taluka

5433. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested to lift the ban on industries in the buffer zones of 25 Kms. preservable for industries around the outer periphery of Dabanu Taluka;

(b) whether the Government of India have agreed to lift the ban; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government constituted a Committee to review the Notification for Dahanu which was issued vide No. S. O. 416(E) dated 20th June, 1991. The Committee has recently prepared the draft report. Appropriate decision in this regard would need to be taken after finalisation of the report.

Worli-Badra Freeway Project in Bombay

5434. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Worli-Bandra Freeway project in Bombay proposed by the Maharashtra Government will result in reduction in pollution arising out of automobiles exhausts;

(b) whether Goverment of India have cleared the project; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the feasibility report submitted by the Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authtrity the proposed Worli-Bandra freeway project in Bombay will reduce the air pollution at Mahim Causeway due to improved traffic flow conditions and diverted traffic.

(b) and (c) The project has not yet been cleared by the Government from an environmental angle. The proposal was examined by the Expert Committee in its meetings held on 20-8-93, 24.8.94, 28.9 94, 20 & 21st Dcember, 1994 & 6th & 7th February, 95. Only a part of the additional information sought by the committee has been furnished recently. The Environmental Impact Assessment report for the entire length of western freeway from Nariman point to World has not yet been submitted.